

HB 413 -- HABITUAL ABSENCES AND TARDINESS OF STUDENTS

SPONSOR: Peters

This bill imposes a penalty against a parent or guardian when a child under his or her charge is habitually absent from school or habitually tardy. Any parent, guardian, or other person having charge, control, or custody of a child, who in violation of Missouri law, permits a child to be habitually absent or habitually tardy from school without a valid excuse must be fined \$25 to \$250 for each offense or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both. The court must impose a minimum condition of probation which may include that the parent, guardian, or legal custodian participate in 40 hours of school or community service activities or a combination of 40 hours of school or community service and attendance in parenting classes or family counseling sessions or programs approved by the court of jurisdiction.

In any case where the child is the subject of a court-ordered custody or visitation plan, the parent or legal guardian who is exercising actual custody or visitation of the child must be responsible for the child's attendance at school on those days and must be solely responsible for any absence or tardiness of the child on those days.

The provisions of the bill will expire five years after the effective date.